

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 212

Expressing the sense of Congress on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of historic events in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Slovak and Czech Republics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2009

Mr. MICA (for himself, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. INGLIS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MACK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CAMP, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. OLSON, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. PASCRELL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of historic events in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Slovak and Czech Republics.

Whereas, on September 3, 1918, the United States Government recognized the Czecho-Slovak National Council as the official Government of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas, on October 28, 1918, the peoples of Slovakia, comprising the present Slovak Republic, and the peoples of Bohemia, Moravia, and part of Silesia, comprising the present Czech Republic, proclaimed their independence in a common state of the Czechoslovak Republic;

Whereas between 1938 and 1945, the Nazis annexed part of Bohemia, set up a fascist “protectorate” in the rest of Bohemia and in Moravia, and installed a puppet fascist government in Slovakia;

Whereas, on November 17, 1939, the Czech institutions of higher learning were closed by the Nazis, many students were taken to concentration camps, and 9 representatives of the student movement were executed;

Whereas the Communists seized power from the democratically elected Government of Czechoslovakia in March 1948;

Whereas troops from Warsaw Pact countries invaded Czechoslovakia in August 1968, ousted the reformist government of Alexander Dubcek, and restored a hard-line communist regime;

Whereas, on November 17, 1989, the brutal break up of a student demonstration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the execution of Czech student leaders and the closure of universities by the Nazis triggered the explosion of mass discontent that launched the Velvet Revolution, which was characterized by reliance on nonviolence and open public discourse;

Whereas the peoples of Czechoslovakia overthrew 40 years of totalitarian communist rule in order to rebuild a democratic society;

Whereas, since November 17, 1989, the people of the Slovak and Czech Republics have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system based upon freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices;

Whereas the people of the United States and the Slovak and Czech Republics have maintained a special relationship based on shared democratic values, common interests, and the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and close cooperation; and

Whereas the people of the United States have an affinity with the peoples of the Slovak and Czech Republics and regard the Slovak and Czech Republics as trusted and important partners: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the his-
4 toric events in Central and Eastern Europe that
5 brought about the collapse of the communist regimes
6 and the fall of the Iron Curtain;

7 (2) commemorates, with the Slovak and Czech
8 Republics, the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revo-
9 lution in Czechoslovakia, which underscores the sig-
10 nificance and value of reclaimed freedom and the
11 dignity of individual citizens;

1 (3) commends the peoples of the Slovak and
2 Czech Republics for their remarkable achievements
3 over the past 20 years in building free, democratic,
4 and prosperous societies;

5 (4) appreciates the contribution of the Slovak
6 and Czech Republics as members of the North At-
7 lantic Treaty Organization and the European Union
8 to the promotion and defense of common values of
9 freedom, democracy, and liberty around the world;

10 (5) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and close
11 cooperation that have existed between the United
12 States and the Slovak and Czech Republics; and

13 (6) extends the warmest congratulations and
14 best wishes to the people of the Slovak Republic and
15 the peoples of the Czech Republic for a peaceful,
16 prosperous, and successful future.

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